



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

WILKES LAND.

On the 19th of January, 1840, in longitude $154^{\circ} 30'$ E., latitude $66^{\circ} 20'$ S., Lieutenant Charles Wilkes sighted, or believed that he sighted, land to the south. On the same day, in longitude $153^{\circ} 40'$ E., latitude $66^{\circ} 31'$ S., Lieutenant Hudson also thought he saw land to the south. Other officers, among them Lieutenant Alden, Gunner Williamson, and Passed Midshipman Colvocoresses, made statements to the same effect. The American vessels sailed westward, and on the 22d and 23d of January reported land again. They then continued their cruise to longitude $97^{\circ} 37'$ E. along this coast, which Lieutenant Wilkes named "The Antarctic Continent," and which has since justly been called Wilkes Land.*

The moment news came of the return of the British Antarctic Expedition in the Spring of 1904, an article appeared in London † denying the existence of Wilkes Land east of 140° E. longitude. Several other such statements were made later, among others one by Captain Scott,‡ rejecting Wilkes Land to the eastward of the 140th meridian.

In his recent book,§ Captain Scott emphasizes these statements. First of all, he repeats and reiterates || a number of antiquated misstatements about Admiral Wilkes. It is not necessary to discuss these misstatements, as their inaccuracy has been repeatedly shown of late years, and British writers themselves are beginning to fight shy of them. Later on** he narrates that on March 3 he had only a bare sufficiency of coal to take the *Discovery* north. On March 4th they sailed to the south of Eld's Peak and Ringgold's Knoll, which they did not see, to longitude $155^{\circ} 30'$ E., $67^{\circ} 23''$ S., and with a dull sky, but a clear horizon, did not see land ahead. Here they turned north, and during the night of March 4-5 they did not see any land to the west. They got soundings in 250 fathoms, 254 fathoms, 245 fathoms, 260 fathoms. Captain Scott, from these observations, deduces that he was on the edge of the Continental plateau; but he concludes that there is no case for any land eastward of longitude 140° E., and he asserts that once and for all he has definitely disposed of Wilkes Land.

§ *Narrative United States Exploring Expedition*, Vol. II.

* *Antarctica*, by Edwin Swift Balch, pp. 145-156.

† *The Geographical Journal*, May, 1904, p. 551.

‡ *The Geographical Journal*, April, 1905, p. 370.

§ *The Voyage of the Discovery*, by Captain Robert F. Scott.

|| *The Voyage of the Discovery*, Vol. I, pp. 17-19.

** *The Voyage of the Discovery*, Vol. II, pp. 392-394.

Lieutenant Albert B. Armitage, in his recent book,* makes statements which are much less drastic, and which do not altogether tally with those of Captain Scott. He says that he is sure that he could have seen any high land within fifteen miles, although the weather was not of the kind in which one could see any great distance, and that although he did not see land, yet the soundings—256 fathoms, 354 fathoms, with yellow mud, 284 fathoms with mud bottom, and 264 fathoms—indicated that the land was not far off.

Captain Scott's Chart † shows the track of the *Discovery* sailing almost due west from the 174th meridian to the 155th meridian of east longitude, and at this point—beyond which the outline of Cape Hudson is indicated on the chart—the track of the *Discovery* turns north.

Let us consider these extracts a little. There was a land twenty degrees of longitude distant from Captain Scott, which he was so anxious to expurgate from the map—undoubtedly because it was an American discovery—that he sails nineteen degrees of longitude towards it. The day before reaching it he pretends to have qualms of conscience about his coal—a handy excuse for stopping—and, just before reaching the spot where the land is charted, he stops, alters his course, and steams away. He neither sails over the spot nor alongside; he simply runs away. Nevertheless, he is so determined that this land shall not exist that he says squarely, "thus once and for all we have definitely disposed of Wilkes Land."

It is self-evident that no Continental or American geographer is going to eliminate Wilkes Land from the map on the assertion of a man who has not been there. For whether Captain Scott turned north because—as he suggests himself, and a fine excuse it is for a sailor—he was afraid that he would not have coal enough to steam thirty or forty miles farther, but would have to resort to sails; or whether he thought he would run his ship on to land; or whatever his underlying motive was; the fact remains that he did run away at the crucial moment and that he did not go to Cape Hudson.

It seems, also, that there are British geographers who are not going to eliminate Wilkes Land from the map, to please Captain Scott, judging from the chart in the excellent book of Dr. Hugh Robert Mill.‡ This able and impartial English gentleman, and Mr.

* *Two Years in the Antarctic*, pp. 293-294.

† *The Voyage of the Discovery*: "Chart of the Antarctic Ocean."

‡ *The Siege of the South Pole*, by Hugh R. Mill, D.Sc., LL.D.: "Chart of the South Polar Regions," by J. G. Bartholomew, F.R.S.E.

J. G. Bartholomew * not only chart Cape Hudson, but they chart Peacock's Bay, Pt. Emmons, Disappointment Bay, Pt. Case, Pt. Alden, Cape Carr, Porpoise Bay, North's High Land, Totten's High Land, Budd's High Land, Knox's High Land, Termination Land, with a query, and the whole is called Wilkes Land. The appearance of the name "Wilkes Land" on this portion of East Antarctica, and especially the appearance, at last, of "Cape Carr," as well as the entire tone of Dr. Mill's well-written and impartial book, are extremely significant, for they show that many English geographers have a high standard of fairness and honour.

And now to take up another phase of this question. The whole of East Antarctica may be one great land mass. Or it may be that Wilkes Land is one mass, possibly a continuation of Australia; and Victoria Land one mass, possibly a continuation of New Zealand. No one can say positively, until an expedition is sent to explore systematically the northern coast of East Antarctica. Mr. Henryk Arctowski, a member of de Gerlache's Antarctica Expedition, is trying hard to keep up interest in Antarctic exploration and to have international co-operation in the future, as he has explained in a recent monograph.† Is it impossible to wake up Governmental interest in the United States in this matter, or, if it is, would not some American multi-millionaire furnish the funds to send an expedition to settle for all time the facts about the greatest geographical discovery of the Nineteenth Century, the coast of "The Antarctic Continent" discovered by Charles Wilkes?

EDWIN SWIFT BALCH.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AFRICA.

GAUTIER'S JOURNEY ACROSS THE SAHARA FROM TUAT TO THE NIGER.—Last summer Professor E. F. Gautier, a member of the Faculty at l'École des Lettres of Algiers, crossed the Sahara between Algeria and the Niger River. His route lay between those of Caillié and Lenz in the west and of Foureau and Barth in the east. He is the first explorer to cross this wide part of the desert since Laing was murdered near Timbuktu in 1826; the notes of this journey across the desert were never recovered.

The journey Gautier has made would have been regarded four years ago

* I have seen it stated recently that Mr. Bartholomew christened the Southern Continent "Antarctica." I am unable to verify the statement, but, if it is correct, he deserves full recognition for coining this excellent name.

† *Projet d'une exploration systématique des Régions Polaires*, par Henryk Arctowski, Bruxelles, 1905.